Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NEW DE 15743 071323Z ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7160

SECRETNEW DELHI 15743

NODIS

CHEROKEE

TO THE SECRETARY FROM THE CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: (OVIP, CARTER)

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL TRIP

REFTEL: STATE 265898

- 1. SINCE BOTH FOREIGN MINISTER AND FOREIGN SECRETARY ARE IN BELGRADE AND WILL NOT RETURN TO NEW DELHI UNTIL NOVEMBER 10, WHICH IS AN INDIAN HOLIDAY, I RAISED POSSIBLE RESCHEDULING OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT WITH M.A. VELLODI, ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY, ON MORNING NOVEMBER 7.
- 2. VELLODI ASKED ME TO RETURN SAME AFTERNOON AFTER HE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH V. SHANKAR, PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER DESAI. SHANKAR TOOK UP THE SUGGESTION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. ACCORDING TO VELLODI THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD WELCOME A RESCHEDULED VISIT ANYTIME IN THE PERIOD DECEMBER 29-JANUARY 5 INCLUSIVE. (U.K.PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE NEW DELHI ON JANUARY 6.)
- 3. VELLODI NOTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD MADE A COMMITMENT SECRET

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TO OPEN A SCIENCE CONGRESS IN AHMEDABAD ON JANUARY 3, BUT ADDED THAT THIS CONFLICT WAS MINOR AND COULD BE ACCOMMODATED. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT INDIAN PARLIAMENT WOULD BE IN RECESS FROM BEFORE CHRISTMAS TO THE END OF JANUARY, THUS RULING OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT BY PRESIDENT CARTER.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MY STRESS ON THE HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL NATURE

OF THIS APPROACH, VELLODI SAID THE POSSIBILITY OF THE RESCHEDULING WOULD BE TIGHTLY HELD. VELLODI SAID HE WOULD INFORM FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE UPON THE LATTER'S RETURN FROM BELGRADE BLOOD

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Subject: POSTPONEMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL TRIP

TAGS: OVIP, US, IN, (CARTER, JIMMY)

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